

# Humanitarian Relief Planning for Iraq

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# Current Humanitarian Situation

- Decreased post-Gulf War living standards, but improvements since OFF, especially in North
- Heavy reliance on OFF, distro system
  - All Iraqis get food rations
  - 60% as only food source
  - Run by UN (North) and GOI (South/Center) with 55,000 ration agents
  - Also provides most medicines
- 800,000 Iraqis internally displaced
- 740,000 Iraqi refugees in neighboring countries

## Iraqi Social Indicators

	<u>Pre-Gulf War</u>	<u>2001</u>
GDP per capita (USD)	\$4,714	\$2,475
Life expectancy	62 years	56 years
Infant mortality (est.)	72 / 1,000	92 / 1,000
Daily calories per capita	2,932	2,232
Literacy rate	55%	58%

# Background

- President Bush has repeatedly stressed the hope that Iraq will disarm and avoid war.
- If force becomes necessary, the USG recognizes the potential for adverse humanitarian consequences.
- The USG is devoting unprecedented attention to the prevention and mitigation of humanitarian consequences.
- However, this is not entirely within our control; much depends on the behavior of Saddam Hussein.



# Saddam's Asymmetric Threats

- Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Co-location of military assets with civilian facilities
- Deliberate targeting of civilians
- Forced population displacements
- Destruction of infrastructure
- Fomenting of ethnic tensions



# Planning Assumptions

- Conflict may have three broad impacts:
  - Increase displacement mostly toward borders
  - Interrupt Oil-For-Food due to UN evacuation, increased shipping insurance costs, distribution disruption
  - Disrupt electricity affecting urban water supply and health services
- Most UN agencies/NGOs will evacuate



# Key Principles

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- USG Relief Planning relies on six key principles:
  - Minimize displacement, damage to the humanitarian infrastructure, and disruption of services
  - Rely primarily on civilian relief agencies
  - Facilitation of IO/NGO operations
  - Effective civil-military coordination
  - Pre-positioning of USG relief supplies
  - Support to the resumption of the Oil-For-Food Ration Distribution System



# Humanitarian Relief Concept of Operations

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- Goal: Limit undue humanitarian suffering and support stability by protecting the humanitarian infrastructure, minimizing displacement, and maximizing the aid provided to those in need
- Create 'humanitarian space'/facilitate UN/NGO operations
- Provide relief as forces advance via civilian Disaster Assistance Response Teams (DARTs) and Civil-Military Operations Centers
- USG will assist via USG relief supplies (initially) and then by funding UN/NGOs/contractors and supporting the resumption of the ration distribution component of Oil-For-Food

# DoD and UN/NGO Operations

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- DoD is not the lead agency for humanitarian relief activities, nor will it control or direct others in the provision of relief.
- DoD recognizes the unparalleled expertise and capacity of the United Nations Relief Agencies, ICRC, other international organizations and NGOs.
- In cooperation with State and USAID, DoD will continue extensive outreach to international and non-governmental organizations on relief issues.



# USG Relief Supplies

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- Use during bridging period until UN/NGOs commence operations
- Goal: USG relief supplies (non-food) for 1 mil people in the region
- Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)
  - 3 million available in Kuwait and other locations
- Contractors quickly provide tech support, equipment (e.g., generators), vital for water/sanitation sector
- Commercial transport used to move relief goods into and within theater
- DART/CMOC -- Direct transport, distribution, allocation

# Conclusions

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## The Department of Defense:

- Is addressing humanitarian relief before, during, and after conflict.
- Supports a comprehensive USG interagency approach to humanitarian relief for Iraq that factors in and facilitates UN/NGO planning.
- Encourages the contributions and participation of coalition partners, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the UN in meeting the needs of a post-war Iraq, should force become necessary.

